

JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMISSION MINUTES

AUGUST 19, 1999 MEETING
AOC, Nashville, Tennessee

Roll Call

The public meeting of the Judicial Evaluation Commission was called to order at the AOC in Nashville at approximately 1:30 p.m. Members attending in Nashville included Steve Daniel, Sarah Sheppard, Barbara Walls, Stanley Rogers, Robert Radford, Jeff Devasher, and Barbara Haskew. Sharon Bell attended via videoconference as did Connie Clark, Administrative Director. Harlan Goan and Stephanie Caldwell of the AOC also attended. D'Army Bailey, Quincy Barlow, and Pat Murrell did not attend.

Election of Chair

Members briefly discussed filling the position of Chair. Sarah Sheppard was nominated and elected Chair by acclamation.

New Legislation

Members reviewed and discussed recent revisions to the Tennessee Plan. Of particular note are (1) changes in the qualifying deadline for judges; (2) a requirement to recommend either "for retention" or "against retention"; (3) creation of terms for Commission members; (4) change of date for final report publication; and (5) a clearer definition as to what the Commission may consider in formulating an evaluation.

Evaluation Process

The Commission discussed the shortened evaluation timeline created by the changes in legislation. The deadline for appellate judges to qualify for the August 2000 election is February 3, 2000. To date, five appellate judges will be up for retention and must be evaluated: Patricia Cottrell, Alan Glenn, Norma Ogle, Mike Swiney, and John Williams. The Commission will use as much survey questionnaire results as possible.

Judges will be asked to prepare biographical sketches, but will be limited to information that directly relates to qualifications of serving as a judge.

The Commission must provide each judge with a draft of his/her evaluation no later than January 4, 2000.

With those dates in mind, the Commission decided to interview all judges in Nashville on Monday, November 8, 1999, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Commission members will be notified at a later date regarding the location of the interviews¹.

¹ Interviews will be held at the Holiday Inn Select on Elm Hill Pike near the Nashville International Airport.

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The Commission will meet next on Monday, December 6, 1999 to finalize evaluations and begin drafting the final report.

Vacancies

Filling Connie Clark's position on the Commission was discussed. Pat Murrell also advised Harlan Goan that her resignation was forthcoming. She regretted that she could not continue, but other obligations necessitated her making this decision.

The Commission will ask the Judicial Council to select replacements, but will not officially recommend one or more candidates. Steve Daniel, as a Council member, will contact Frank Buck.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:

Harlan Goan